

1 SHOOK, HARDY & BACON LLP  
2 B. Trent Webb, Esq.  
3 Eric Buresh, Esq.  
4 2555 Grand Boulevard  
5 Kansas City, Missouri 64108-2613  
6 Telephone: (816) 474-6550  
7 Facsimile: (816) 421-5547  
8 [bwebb@shb.com](mailto:bwebb@shb.com)  
9 [eburesh@shb.com](mailto:eburesh@shb.com)  
10 (*pro hac vice applications to be submitted*)

11 Robert H. Reckers, Esq.  
12 600 Travis Street, Suite 1600  
13 Houston, Texas 77002  
14 Telephone: (713) 227-8008  
15 Facsimile: (731) 227-9508  
16 [reckers@shb.com](mailto:reckers@shb.com)  
17 (*pro hac vice application to be submitted*)

18 SNELL & WILMER L.L.P.  
19 Aaron D. Ford, Esq. (Nevada Bar No. 7704)  
20 3883 Howard Hughes Parkway, Suite 1100  
21 Las Vegas, Nevada 89169  
22 Telephone: (702) 784-5200  
23 Facsimile: (702) 784-5252  
24 [aford@swlaw.com](mailto:aford@swlaw.com)

25 *Attorneys for Defendants*  
26 RIMINI STREET, INC. and SETH RAVIN  
27

28 WILSON SONSINI GOODRICH & ROSATI  
1 Jonathan M. Jacobson, Esq.  
2 1301 Avenue of the Americas, 40<sup>th</sup> Floor  
3 New York, New York, 110019  
4 Telephone: (212) 999-5800  
5 Facsimile: (212) 999-5899  
6 [jjacobson@wsgr.com](mailto:jjacobson@wsgr.com)  
7 (*pro hac vice applications to be submitted*)

8 Michael B. Levin, Esq.  
9 650 Page Mill Road  
10 Palo Alto, CA 94304-1050  
11 Telephone: (650) 493- 9300  
12 Facsimile: (650) 493 - 6811  
13 [mlevin@wsgr.com](mailto:mlevin@wsgr.com)  
14 (*pro hac vice application to be submitted*)

15 GREENBERG TRAURIG  
16 Mark G. Tratos, Esq. (Nevada Bar No. 1086)  
17 Brandon Roos, Esq. (Nevada Bar No. 7888)  
18 Leslie Godfrey, Esq. (Nevada Bar No. 10229)  
19 3773 Howard Hughes Parkway  
20 Suite 400 North  
21 Las Vegas, NV 89169  
22 Telephone: (702) 792-3773  
23 Facsimile: (702) 792-9002  
24 [tratosm@gtlaw.com](mailto:tratosm@gtlaw.com)  
25 [roosb@gtlaw.com](mailto:roosb@gtlaw.com)  
26 [godfreyl@gtlaw.com](mailto:godfreyl@gtlaw.com)

27 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
28 DISTRICT OF NEVADA

29 ORACLE USA, INC., a Colorado corporation;  
30 and ORACLE INTERNATIONAL  
31 CORPORATION, a California corporation,

32 Plaintiffs,

33 v.

34 RIMINI STREET, INC. , a Nevada corporation;  
35 SETH RAVIN, an individual,

36 Defendants.

37 Case No. 2:10-cv-0106-LRH-PAL

38 **DEFENDANT RIMINI  
39 STREET INC.'S ANSWER  
40 AND COUNTERCLAIMS**

**RIMINI STREET INC.'S ANSWER AND COUNTERCLAIMS**

Defendant Rimini Street Inc. (“Rimini Street”) for its Answer and Counterclaims against Plaintiffs Oracle USA, Inc. (“Oracle USA”) and Oracle International Corporation (“OIC”) (together “Oracle” or “Plaintiffs”) allege as follows based on its personal knowledge as for itself, and on information and belief as to the acts of others:

**I. FACTUAL BACKGROUND**

1. *“We believe we should be the ones to support our customers, . . . . If you’re a third-party support provider offering multivendor support, we’re coming, we’re coming.”* (Juergen Rottler, Oracle’s Executive Vice President of Global Customer Services, threatening third-party support vendors that compete with Oracle).<sup>1</sup> Oracle made this public threat just one day after filing its Complaint against Rimini Street.

**A. Rimini Street Vehemently Denies Oracle’s Knowingly False Accusations.**

2. Oracle maliciously alleges that Rimini Street’s business is an “illegal business model,” an “illegal scheme,” and that there has been “massive theft of Oracle’s software and related support materials by Rimini Street.” These accusations are false, and Rimini Street vehemently denies them.

3. Rimini Street’s business processes and procedures are entirely legal, and Rimini Street has not committed “massive theft,” or any theft at all. Rimini Street is authorized by every one of its clients to perform work on their behalf, and, as a matter of process and procedure, has delivered Oracle Software and Support Materials<sup>2</sup> only to clients who were entitled to them and only within the scope of that client’s entitlement.

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<sup>1</sup> Richard Adhikari, *Oracle Puts Third-Party Support in Crosshairs*, E-COMMERCE TIMES, Jan. 28, 2010, <http://www.ecommercetimes.com/story/69217.html> (last visited Mar. 1, 2010).

<sup>2</sup> Oracle software applications, updates, bug fixes, patches, across the entire PeopleSoft, JD Edwards and Siebel families of software products are referred to throughout as “Oracle Software and Support Materials.”

1           4. Far from Oracle's "massive theft" allegation, Rimini Street has implemented  
 2 extraordinary processes and procedures to assure the proper use of Oracle's intellectual property.  
 3 For example, Rimini Street performs a unique download of Oracle Software and Support Materials  
 4 on behalf of each client that authorizes and requests such service. Rimini Street maintains  
 5 downloaded material only on behalf of the client for whom the download was performed. And, as a  
 6 matter of process and procedure, each client is assigned a separate data "silo" where Oracle Software  
 7 and Support Materials for only that client are maintained. Rimini Street does not co-mingle the  
 8 independent downloads of clients.  
 9

10           5. With respect to Oracle's complaint about Rimini Street possessing copies of Oracle  
 11 customer licensed software, Oracle customers authorize Rimini Street to possess and use such  
 12 copies. Not only is possessing and using the copies legal, it is an industry standard for third party  
 13 vendors like IBM, AT&T, Accenture, CedarCrestone, and countless others who work with the same  
 14 Oracle customer licensed software. Oracle is well aware of Rimini Street's authorized possession  
 15 and usage of customer licensed software because Oracle itself delivered the software to Rimini  
 16 Street for hundreds of its customers.  
 17

18           6. Oracle is fully aware of Rimini Street's processes and procedures. If Oracle had  
 19 genuine concerns about Rimini Street's use of its intellectual property, Oracle could have accepted  
 20 Rimini Street's numerous offers since September 2005 to openly and transparently review and  
 21 discuss Rimini Street processes and procedures, or Oracle could have even accepted Rimini Street's  
 22 invitation to review internal materials and Rimini Street's invitation to have a third-party  
 23 independent auditor review Rimini Street's compliance with its processes and procedures.  
 24

25           7. Instead, Oracle chose to ignore the fact that Rimini Street's processes and procedures  
 26 are legal and supported by industry-leading practices. Oracle initiated this baseless litigation as  
 27 another anticompetitive tactic to try and slow Rimini Street's fast-paced growth and protect Oracle's  
 28

dominant 95% market share and monopoly-like 92% gross profit margins on the after-market support of its products.<sup>3</sup>

8. Rimini Street will aggressively defend against this baseless litigation and has counterclaimed herein so as to end Oracle's five year campaign of illegal anticompetitive tactics against Rimini Street and to hold Oracle accountable for its actions, related costs and damages.

## **B. Oracle Prefers Competition in the Courtroom Rather than the Marketplace.**

9. Oracle is the world's largest enterprise software company. Rimini Street provides after-market support services for enterprise software applications—including software applications licensed by Oracle.

10. Rimini Street is Oracle's fastest-growing competitor for the after-market support business of Oracle's Siebel, PeopleSoft and JD Edwards enterprise software products. Hundreds of Fortune 500, mid market, small and public sector organizations around the world have already made the switch to Rimini Street's innovative, award-winning and highly-praised support model. Rimini Street has been forecasting significant continued year-over-year growth based on sales pipeline data.

11. Rimini Street's success and growing industry acceptance as a proven alternative to Oracle's much more expensive after-market support offerings is now threatening Oracle's market control and pricing power. In response, Oracle has now turned to the courtroom instead of choosing to compete in an open and fair market. Oracle's strategy is to use this calculated litigation to protect its share of the after-market support business for Oracle software products and preserve or increase its profit margin on those services.

12. With a staggering \$800 million in quarterly losses in its core businesses,<sup>4</sup> Oracle's power, profits and financial strength can only be maintained if it can continue coercing its customers into paying exorbitant annual fees for after-market support of its products.

<sup>3</sup> See Thomas Wailgum, *ERP Support Drama: How Far Will Oracle Go to Protect Its Golden Egg?*, CIO MAGAZINE, Feb. 24, 2010, <http://www.cio.com/article/554113/> (last visited Mar. 2, 2010).

1                   **C. Rimini Street is Oracle's Primary Competition for After-Market Support.**

2                   13. In 2009, Rimini Street saw growth of more than 270% in year-over-year revenue,  
 3 more than doubled its global client base to nearly 300, added substantial new international clients,  
 4 accumulated nearly \$150 million in sales backlog, and more than doubled its global workforce to  
 5 160 professionals. Rimini Street achieved a 95% annual client renewal rate and more than a 99%  
 6 client satisfaction rating.

7                   14. One reason Oracle's support customers switch to Rimini Street support is a 50%  
 8 annual fee savings. Rimini Street is able to spend more money on each support client and offer  
 9 lower fees by simply eliminating the excessive profits Oracle demands from its support customers.  
 10 Also, due to Rimini Street's dramatically different support model that includes no required upgrades  
 11 or updates for a minimum of ten years, Rimini Street clients can achieve a total operating cost  
 12 savings up to 90% over a decade compared to Oracle's support model.

14                   15. In addition to significant savings, Rimini Street's different support model provides  
 15 clients with "concierge" level, ultra-responsive service. Unlike Oracle's generic call center  
 16 approach, Rimini Street assigns each client a named, highly experienced Primary Support Engineer.  
 17 Support services are available 24x7x365 with guaranteed 30 minute response time anywhere in the  
 18 world and 90% guaranteed live call answering during the day. Rimini Street's track-record of  
 19 meeting these service level commitments and providing excellent service is well documented by  
 20 leading industry analysts who work with Rimini Street clients, media interviews with Rimini Street  
 21 clients, client side-by-side live service comparisons, client satisfaction surveys, and hundreds of  
 22 client reference calls made by Rimini Street prospects.

25                   16. Rimini Street's different support model also includes many innovative services at no  
 26 additional charge that go beyond the features of Oracle's standard support. The additional Rimini

27                   4    *Id.*

1 Street services include performance support, interoperability support, and support for application  
2 customizations. The inclusion of these services represents significant cost savings for Rimini Street  
3 clients compared to the additional consulting fees Oracle would generally charge its customers for  
4 similar services.

5 17. Another benefit for Oracle clients who switch to Rimini Street support is a more  
6 robust and timely tax, legal and regulatory service spanning up to 190 countries for PeopleSoft and  
7 JD Edwards products. Rimini Street's tax, legal and regulatory update design and development  
8 operation is led by veteran tax specialists, attorneys, executives, and engineers who bring a blend of  
9 international tax, legal and regulatory expertise. As part of Rimini Street's commitment to the  
10 highest quality deliverables, Rimini Street's tax, legal and regulatory development process has been  
11 audited from scoping to delivery for Sarbanes Oxley 404 process compliance by a Big Four  
12 accounting firm.

14 18. Rimini Street has already delivered more than 5,000 high-quality tax, legal and  
15 regulatory updates to its clients over the years, and is currently responsible for the accurate  
16 processing of billions of dollars in transactions a month. Further, Rimini Street has delivered every  
17 one of its tax, legal and regulatory updates to clients ahead of Oracle's planned delivery date for its  
18 equivalent updates since the inception of the company. Rimini Street clients praise the quality,  
19 comprehensiveness and timely delivery of Rimini Street's tax, legal and regulatory updates in media  
20 interviews, client references for prospects, and press materials.

22 19. Rimini Street respects the intellectual property rights of Oracle. As detailed herein,  
23 Rimini Street takes extraordinary efforts, in both process and procedure, to ensure that Oracle's  
24 intellectual property rights are respected by Rimini Street employees working with Oracle Software  
25 and Support Materials.

1                   **D.       Oracle has a Long History of Trying to Stifle Rimini Street Competition.**

2                   20. The present lawsuit is only Oracle's latest effort to stifle the competitive threat posed  
3 by Rimini Street.

4                   21. Rimini Street began operations in September 2005, offering a competitive after-  
5 market support offering for Siebel Systems software products.

6                   22. At about the same time Rimini Street began operations, Oracle Corporation  
7 announced that it intended to acquire Siebel Systems. Oracle completed the acquisition of Siebel  
8 Systems shortly thereafter.

9                   23. Rimini Street added support offerings for Oracle's PeopleSoft products in April 2006  
10 and Oracle's JD Edwards products in September 2006.

11                   24. Since shortly after Rimini Street's inception, Oracle began a systematic campaign to  
12 disrupt and halt Rimini Street's business. Initially, Oracle's efforts consisted of numerous hostile  
13 letters, some of which were published in the media as early as 2005 as examples of how Oracle was  
14 trying to forestall after-market competition from a just-launched Rimini Street.

15                   25. Over the years, Rimini Street responded to each Oracle letter, explained the  
16 appropriateness of Rimini Street's practices and procedures, and repeatedly offered to meet and  
17 discuss any questions or concerns Oracle might have about Rimini Street's processes and  
18 procedures.

19                   26. As Rimini Street's success grew, so did Oracle's determination and efforts to disrupt  
20 Rimini Street's growth. Since the inception of the company, Rimini Street used automated download  
21 tools to help its clients identify and take delivery of the large volume of Oracle Software and  
22 Support Materials they paid for and were entitled to possess and use (potentially tens of thousand of  
23 files for a single customer). Using such automated tools was necessary because Oracle refused to  
24 help its customers identify and take delivery of such large volumes of materials.

1           27. In June 2007, Oracle attempted to intentionally interfere with Rimini Street's  
 2 authorized client downloads by changing its website terms and conditions to no longer allow use of  
 3 such automated download tools. Rimini Street wrote Oracle when it became aware of the change,  
 4 warning that Rimini Street believed Oracle's actions were not only anti-competitive against Rimini  
 5 Street, but also constituted a breach of its license agreements with Oracle clients that have  
 6 protections against reductions in service rights resulting from changes by Oracle in support terms  
 7 and conditions. As such, the reductions in service rights were not enforceable.  
 8

9           28. Oracle's efforts escalated in December 2008 when Oracle began interfering with  
 10 Rimini Street's performance of an authorized download for a large client switching from Oracle to  
 11 Rimini Street support by blocking Rimini Street access to the Oracle support websites. After  
 12 correspondence from both the client and Rimini Street demanding Oracle cease and desist its access-  
 13 blocking tactics, Oracle stopped the interference.

14           29. At this point, as a good-faith attempt at conflict reduction with Oracle, Rimini Street  
 15 unilaterally agreed to cease using automated download tools in January 2009 and notified Oracle's  
 16 representatives of this decision in early February 2009.  
 17

18           30. Further, to prevent Oracle's anti-competitive actions from occurring in the future,  
 19 Rimini Street asked for and was finally granted a call with Oracle representatives in early February  
 20 2009. On the call, Rimini Street offered to share Rimini Street internal information with Oracle  
 21 and/or to work out an agreement that would utilize an independent third party auditor reporting back  
 22 to both parties to confirm Rimini Street's compliance with its standard processes and procedures.  
 23 Oracle never responded to any of Rimini Street's proposals.  
 24

25           **E. Oracle Ignores Truth, Turns to False Allegations**

26           31. Ignoring Rimini Street's open invitation to view internal information, engage a third  
 27 party auditor, or even hold additional dialogue, Oracle filed this baseless lawsuit in an attempt to  
 28

1 disrupt Rimini Street's growth and damage Rimini Street's business through false statements and  
 2 disparagement.

3       32. For example, Oracle maliciously casts Rimini Street as a "sham" company that  
 4 steals Oracle Software and Support Materials and resells them at half the price Oracle charges.  
 5 Oracle further disparages Rimini Street's business by branding it an "illegal business model" and  
 6 "illegal scheme." Similarly, Oracle falsely states that there has been "massive theft of Oracle's  
 7 software and related support materials by Rimini Street." As Oracle is well aware, these  
 8 characterizations of Rimini Street's business are not only completely false, but they could not be  
 9 further from the truth.

10      33. Rimini Street has informed Oracle that, as a matter of process and procedure, Rimini  
 11 Street's clients are only delivered the Oracle Software and Support Materials to which they are  
 12 legally entitled. In fact, Rimini Street performs a unique download of Oracle Software and Support  
 13 Materials from Oracle's web sites on behalf of each of its clients who: (a) requests and authorizes  
 14 Rimini Street to download from Oracle on their behalf a unique set of Oracle Software and Support  
 15 Materials the customer is entitled to use based on their licensed products and Oracle Annual Support  
 16 product coverage; and (b) represents they are presently an Oracle Annual Support customer whose  
 17 Oracle Annual Support period has not expired.

18      34. Oracle is further aware that each of Rimini Street's clients has a unique data "silo"  
 19 for storing clients' Oracle Software and Support Materials. Therefore, the clients' Oracle Software  
 20 and Support Materials are not physically co-mingled together. Despite its awareness of Rimini  
 21 Street's processes and procedures, Oracle states that Rimini Street has "stockpile[d] a library" of  
 22 Oracle's intellectual property "to support its present and prospective customers." Such a "library"  
 23 has never existed at Rimini Street, and Oracle is aware of that fact and could easily have confirmed  
 24 it by simply accepting Rimini Street's offer of third party verification.

1           35. If Oracle really had genuine concerns about the use of its intellectual property and  
 2 its aims were to simply find the truth and to protect its intellectual property, Oracle has had  
 3 unlimited opportunities over nearly five years to dialogue and work directly with Rimini Street per  
 4 the numerous open invitations extended in Rimini Street letters to Oracle. But, as the facts  
 5 demonstrate, that is not Oracle's objective. Instead, Oracle's goal is to forestall after-market product  
 6 support competition from Rimini Street. Litigation is Oracle's strategy.

7           36. While Oracle attempts to disparage Rimini Street and falsely cast this case as being  
 8 about a "massive theft" that does not exist, the truth is this case is only about Oracle's attempt to  
 9 protect its 95% dominant market share and monopoly-like 92% gross margins on after-market  
 10 support of its products.

12           **RIMINI STREET'S COUNTERCLAIMS**

13           For its Counterclaims against Plaintiffs, Rimini Street states as follows:

14           **II. JURISDICTION**

15           37. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over Rimini Street's counterclaims under  
 16 28 U.S.C. §§ 1338, 1367 and 2201, and Rule 13 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

18           38. In addition, this Court has original subject matter jurisdiction over the state law  
 19 claims under 28 U.S.C. § 1332 because there is complete diversity of citizenship between the  
 20 Plaintiffs and Rimini Street, and the amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000.

21           **III. THE PARTIES**

22           39. Rimini Street is a Nevada corporation, with its principal place of business in Las  
 23 Vegas, Nevada. Rimini Street develops support products and provides support and maintenance for  
 24 enterprise software, including software licensed by Oracle.

26           40. Oracle USA is a Colorado corporation, with its principal place of business in  
 27 Redwood City, California.

1           41. Oracle International Corporation is a California corporation, with its principal place  
 2 of business in Redwood City, California.  
 3

**COUNT ONE—DEFAMATION, BUSINESS DISPARAGEMENT AND TRADE LIBEL**

4           42. Rimini Street repeats and incorporates by reference the averments set forth in  
 5 Paragraphs 1–41 as though fully set forth herein.  
 6

7           43. Oracle has responded to Rimini Street’s success, not through fair marketplace  
 8 competition, but with incendiary and unfounded allegations that Rimini Street and its employees are  
 9 thieves carrying out a “corrupt” and “illegal business model.”  
 10

11           44. On information and belief, defamatory statements have been published and  
 12 republished by Oracle and its agents to members of the media and analyst community, Rimini  
 13 Street’s customers and potential customers, as well as to the public at large. For example, an Oracle  
 14 representative contacted a senior analyst for an influential analyst firm and made statements  
 15 insinuating that Rimini Street’s practices were illegal. Similar allegations of illegality were made to  
 16 other analysts, analyst firms and members of the media, reflecting an attempt by Oracle to severely  
 17 tarnish Rimini Street’s standing in the industry. On information and belief, Rimini Street expects  
 18 discovery will illuminate a pattern of similar defamatory communications by Oracle representatives.  
 19

20           45. Oracle’s false and disparaging statements were intended to harm Rimini Street’s  
 21 standing in the business community and, ultimately, to hinder Rimini Street’s ability to conduct and  
 22 grow its business.  
 23

24           46. Oracle published its disparaging statements about Rimini Street’s business  
 25 maliciously, knowing such statements are false or with reckless disregard to their falsity.  
 26

27           47. Dating back to the launch of Rimini Street in 2005, Oracle and Rimini Street have  
 28 had a long history of communications. Given these interactions, Oracle is well aware that Rimini  
 Street’s business practices are not illegal as Oracle has alleged and published.  
 310750v1

1           48. And, Oracle has had no basis to believe in this stated illegality of Rimini Street's  
2 business practices. Oracle attempts to equate Rimini Street's business with that of TomorrowNow,  
3 an unrelated and different third-party support vendor owned by SAP AG, another vendor of  
4 enterprise software. Oracle filed suit against TomorrowNow and SAP AG in 2007. Although  
5 Oracle's present Complaint against Rimini Street is highly similar to Oracle's Complaint against  
6 SAP AG, et al., in Case No. 07-CV-1658 in the Northern District of California, Oracle is well aware  
7 of the significant differences between Rimini Street's practices and procedures and those of SAP's  
8 TomorrowNow. For instance, Rimini Street does not have or make available a "single repository" of  
9 downloaded Oracle Software and Support Materials as Oracle states. Nor does Rimini Street mixed  
10 or consolidated Oracle Software and Support Materials such that unique downloads for one client are  
11 co-mingled with unique downloads from other clients, and support materials are not indiscriminately  
12 downloaded and stored for general use.

14           49. Oracle is further aware that Rimini Street performs a unique download of Oracle  
15 Software and Support Materials on behalf of each client that requests such service. Each client  
16 (authorizing Rimini Street to act on client's behalf) warrants to Rimini Street that it has the rights to  
17 access Oracle's support web sites and take possession of the requested Oracle Software and Support  
18 Materials. Rimini Street then maintains downloaded material only on behalf of the client for whom  
19 the download was performed. To safeguard against improper use of downloaded materials, as a  
20 matter of process and procedure, each client is assigned a separate data "silo" where Oracle Software  
21 and Support Materials for that client are maintained, and Rimini Street does not co-mingle the  
22 independent downloads of clients.

25           50. Rimini Street delivers to each client only the software and support material that each  
26 client is entitled to receive, which often are quite voluminous and can consist of thousands or even  
27 tens of thousands of materials.

1           51. Oracle is further aware that Rimini Street has consistently released its own  
 2 independently-created regulatory and tax updates *before* the release date of Oracle's equivalent  
 3 update, forestalling any arguments that Rimini Street copied Oracle's updates.

4           52. Finally, Oracle cannot truthfully claim that Rimini Street is not authorized to possess  
 5 copies of Oracle's software. First, every Rimini Street client contract authorizes Rimini Street to  
 6 possess or access copies of the client's licensed software. Second, as Oracle is well aware, it is  
 7 common industry practice by other third party consulting vendors such as IBM, AT&T, Accenture,  
 8 Navisite, WTS, CedarCrestone, and virtually every other hosting service provider to possess and  
 9 work with copies of their client's licensed software products. Third, until recently Oracle *itself*  
 10 directly mailed or made available to Rimini Street through authorized downloads, as an authorized  
 11 agent of Oracle's licensees, copies of the clients' licensed Oracle software. Oracle and Rimini Street  
 12 personnel worked closely together over the years in the software order-to-ship process for hundreds  
 13 of clients. Here again, Oracle had full knowledge that Rimini Street's actions were authorized by  
 14 Oracle's customers. Far from acting as "fraudulent thieves," Rimini Street has acted legally, openly  
 15 (and often with Oracle's full cooperation), and in accordance with the agreements held by Rimini  
 16 Street's clients.

19           53. Oracle is aware of the falsity of its statements because it was directly informed by  
 20 Rimini Street of the true facts. Further, Rimini Street offered to allow Oracle to employ a neutral  
 21 third party to audit Rimini Street's compliance with its processes and procedures. Instead of  
 22 undertaking this reasonable confirmatory exercise, Oracle purposely and recklessly made the above-  
 23 identified false and disparaging statements regarding Rimini Street.

25           54. Rimini Street has been damaged by Oracle's conduct as complained of herein, in an  
 26 amount to be determined at trial. On information and belief, Oracle's false and disparaging

1 statements regarding Rimini Street's business have directly led to economic loss on the part of  
 2 Rimini Street through specific loss of sales.

3 **COUNT TWO—DECLARATION OF UNENFORCEABILITY FOR COPYRIGHT MISUSE**

4 55. Rimini Street repeats and incorporates by reference the averments set forth in  
 5 Paragraphs 1–54 as though fully set forth herein.

6 56. Oracle claims to own a valid and enforceable copyright in, or have exclusive license  
 7 to, all of their software applications and software and support materials.

8 57. Oracle disseminates Oracle Software and Support Materials via electronic  
 9 transmissions over a computer network. Oracle's Software and Support Materials websites contain  
 10 “browser-wrap” or “click-wrap” agreements.

12 58. Oracle has admitted that its software licensees have every right to use third-party  
 13 maintenance and support vendors (such as Rimini Street). However, Oracle has attempted to use the  
 14 design of its support website and terms of its “browser-wrap” or “click-wrap” agreements on various  
 15 Oracle web sites to forestall such legal competition from Rimini Street and to interfere with a  
 16 customer's ability to select a support vendor other than Oracle. This attempt to influence  
 17 competition in an area beyond the scope of Oracle's copyrights constitutes copyrights misuse.

19 59. Instead of simply providing its customers each of the support files they are entitled to  
 20 possess under their respective licenses and unexpired Oracle annual support, Oracle requires  
 21 customers to self-identify and individually download each such file from Oracle's support material  
 22 web portal. This portal contains millions of files to sort through and all are accessible to every  
 23 client, regardless of which products a customer has licensed or whether or not a product is covered  
 24 by an unexpired Oracle support agreement. Oracle provides no assistance to its support customers in  
 25 the identification of all Oracle Software and Support Materials such customer is entitled to possess  
 26 and use.

1           60. Though Oracle's support material web portal does not provide a method for  
2 customers to easily identify and download all the files they are entitled to possess and use, Oracle  
3 has changed its web site terms to prohibit the use of automated tools that can help an Oracle  
4 customer identify and download a significant volume of Oracle Software and Support Materials to  
5 which an Oracle licensee and support customer is entitled. Further, Oracle's "click-wrap" agreement  
6 has once again been changed, and now includes a provision that prohibits access to and download of  
7 support materials unless such access or download "is in furtherance of the relationship between  
8 customer and Oracle." This provision is another clear example of Oracle's systematic use of  
9 anticompetitive tactics to try and maintain a stranglehold over its customers by effectively requiring  
10 them to either continue purchasing after-market support only from Oracle or forego critical support  
11 materials to which they are entitled and for which they have already paid.

13           61. Through its various license agreements and changing web site access and use terms  
14 and conditions, Oracle is attempting to use its copyright in a manner adverse to the public policy  
15 embodied in copyright law.

17           62. The requirements Oracle places on the ability of customers (or their agents) to obtain  
18 licensed software and support materials gives Oracle a substantial and unfair advantage over its  
19 support and maintenance competitors, and these requirements constitute a misuse of copyright by  
20 Oracle.

21           63. Rimini Street has been directly harmed by Oracle's anticompetitive misuse of its  
22 copyrights and license agreements.

24           64. Rimini Street is therefore entitled to a declaratory judgment finding Oracle's  
25 copyrights to be unenforceable until that time that Oracle discontinues use of the terms that led to  
26 misuse of its copyrights.

1                   **COUNT THREE—UNFAIR COMPETITION—CAL. BUS. & PROF. CODE § 17200**

2                   65. Rimini Street repeats and incorporates by reference the averments set forth in  
 3 Paragraphs 1–64 as though fully set forth herein.

4                   66. Oracle has engaged in fraudulent business acts or practices by false and misleading  
 5 statements, deceptive business practices, ever-changing contract terms and policies, processes, and  
 6 procedures.

7                   67. As evidence of Oracle’s fraudulent business practices, on information and belief,  
 8 Oracle caused false and disparaging allegations to be published and republished by Oracle and its  
 9 agents to members of the media and analyst community, Rimini Street’s customers and potential  
 10 customers, as well as to the public at large. These allegations were made with Plaintiffs’ intent to,  
 11 and are likely to, deceive members of the public.

12                   68. Oracle has also employed unlawful and/or fraudulent business practices in its  
 13 dealings with industry analysts, reporters and Rimini Street’s customers and potential customers.  
 14 For example, Oracle has provided false and misleading information about Rimini Street to customers  
 15 with which Rimini Street had established a potential business relationship.

16                   69. The acts and conduct of Oracle constitute fraudulent conduct as defined by  
 17 California Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*

18                   70. As a result of Oracle’s actions, Rimini Street has suffered irreparable injury, and  
 19 Rimini Street’s standing in the business community has been harmed. Unless Oracle is enjoined,  
 20 Rimini Street will continue to suffer irreparable harm and Oracle’s conduct will continue to harm  
 21 Rimini Street’s standing in the business community, and ultimately hinder Rimini Street’s ability to  
 22 conduct and grow its business.

23                   71. Oracle should be compelled to disgorge and/or restore any and all revenues,  
 24 earnings, profits, compensation, and benefits they may have obtained in violation of California  
 25

1 Business & Professions Code § 17200 et seq., including, but not limited to, returning any revenue  
 2 earned as a proximate result of the unlawful publication of the deceptive statements made to the  
 3 public.

4 **RIMINI STREET'S ANSWER**

5 Rimini Street hereby answers Oracle USA Inc. and Oracle International  
 6 Corporation's Complaint for Damages and Injunctive Relief ("Complaint") as follows:  
 7

8 **I. JURISDICTION**

9 1. Rimini Street admits that this action has been characterized by Oracle as an action  
 10 arising under Federal Copyright Act, 17 U.S.C. §§ 101 *et seq.*, and the Computer Fraud and Abuse  
 11 Act 18 U.S.C. §§ 1030 *et seq.* Rimini Street admits that this Court has subject matter jurisdiction  
 12 over certain actions pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1030(g), 28 U.S.C. § 1331, and 28 U.S.C. § 1338.  
 13 Rimini Street denies, however, that Plaintiffs' Complaint sets forth any meritorious cause of action  
 14 from which Plaintiffs could recover its requested injunctive relief or damages.  
 15

16 2. Rimini Street admits that this Court has supplemental subject matter jurisdiction over  
 17 pendent state law claims under 28 U.S.C. § 1367. Rimini Street denies, however, that Plaintiffs'  
 18 Complaint sets forth any meritorious cause of action from which Plaintiffs could recover its  
 19 requested injunctive relief or damages.  
 20

21 3. Rimini Street admits that this Court has original subject matter jurisdiction over state  
 22 law claims under 28 U.S.C. § 1332 where the matter in controversy exceeds the sum value of  
 23 \$75,000, and there is complete diversity between the Plaintiffs and Defendants. Rimini Street  
 24 denies, however, that Plaintiffs' Complaint sets forth any meritorious cause of action from which  
 25 Plaintiffs could recover its requested injunctive relief or damages.  
 26  
 27  
 28

1                   **II. INTRODUCTION**

2                   4. Rimini Street admits that Paragraph 4 contains partial quotations Plaintiffs claim are  
 3 attributed to Seth Ravin, however the date, source, and context of the quotations are not identified,  
 4 therefore Rimini Street denies the allegations of Paragraph 4.

5                   5. Rimini Street admits that it provides support to companies that license certain of  
 6 Plaintiffs' enterprise software applications, including Plaintiffs' PeopleSoft, J.D. Edwards ("JDE")  
 7 and Siebel-branded software. Rimini Street denies the remaining allegations against it, including  
 8 Plaintiffs' statements regarding Rimini Street's business, in Paragraph 5.

9                   6. Rimini Street denies the allegations against it in Paragraph 6.

10                  7. Rimini Street admits that Paragraph 7 contains partial quotations Plaintiffs claim are  
 11 attributed to Seth Ravin, however the date, source, and context of the quotations are not identified,  
 12 and therefore Rimini Street denies the allegations of Paragraph 7.

13                  8. Rimini Street denies the allegations against it in Paragraph 8.

14                  9. Rimini Street denies the allegations against it in Paragraph 9.

15                  10. Rimini Street denies the allegations against it in the first two sentences of Paragraph  
 16 10. Rimini Street is without sufficient information or knowledge to form an opinion as to the  
 17 veracity of the remaining allegations set forth in Paragraph 10 and therefore denies the same.

18                  11. Rimini Street admits that Mr. Ravin and Mr. Nelson sold TomorrowNow to SAP and  
 19 that Mr. Ravin founded Rimini Street. Rimini Street is without sufficient information or knowledge  
 20 to form an opinion as to the veracity of the remaining allegations set forth in Paragraph 11 and  
 21 therefore denies the same.

22                  12. Rimini Street admits that Paragraph 12 contains partial quotations Plaintiffs claim are  
 23 attributed to Seth Ravin, however the date, source, and context of the quotations are not identified,  
 24 therefore Rimini Street denies the allegations of Paragraph 12.

13. Rimini Street admits that Paragraph 13 contains partial quotations Plaintiffs claim are  
 1 attributed to Rimini Street's marketing literature, however the date, source, and context of the  
 2 quotations are not identified, therefore Rimini Street denies the allegations of Paragraph 13. Rimini  
 3 Street is without sufficient information or knowledge regarding updates from PeopleSoft and  
 4 TomorrowNow, Inc. to form an opinion as to the veracity of the remaining allegations set forth in  
 5 Paragraph 13 and therefore denies the same.

7           14. Rimini Street denies the allegations against it in Paragraph 14.

9 **III. THE PARTIES**

10           15. Rimini Street is without sufficient information or knowledge to form an opinion as to  
 11 the veracity of the allegations set forth in Paragraph 15 and therefore denies the same.

12           16. Rimini Street is without sufficient information or knowledge to form an opinion as to  
 13 the veracity of the allegations set forth in Paragraph 16 and therefore denies the same.

14           17. Rimini Street admits that Seth Ravin is the founder, president and CEO of Rimini  
 15 Street, as well as a former President of Tomorrow Now. Rimini Street admits that Seth Ravin is a  
 16 resident of Nevada.

18           18. Rimini Street admits that Rimini Street, Inc. is a Nevada Corporation with its  
 19 principal place of business in Las Vegas, Nevada. Rimini Street admits that Seth Ravin founded  
 20 Rimini Street. Rimini Street denies the remaining allegations against it in Paragraph 18.

21           19. Rimini Street is without sufficient information or knowledge to form an opinion as to  
 22 the veracity of the allegations set forth in Paragraph 19 and therefore denies the same.

23           20. Rimini Street admits that Defendants are doing business in Nevada. Rimini Street  
 24 further admits that it is headquartered in this district and that Mr. Ravin resides in this district.  
 25 Rimini Street denies the remaining allegations against it in Paragraph 20.

27           21. Rimini Street denies the allegations against it in Paragraph 21.

1 22. Rimini Street denies the allegations against it in Paragraph 22.

2 **IV. VENUE**

3 23. Rimini Street does not contest venue in this matter.

4 **V. DIVISION ASSIGNMENT**

5 24. Rimini Street does not contest assignment to the Las Vegas division.

6 **VI. FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

7 25. Rimini Street is without sufficient information or knowledge to form an opinion as  
8 to the veracity of the allegations set forth in Paragraph 25 and therefore denies the same.

9 26. Rimini Street is without sufficient information or knowledge to form an opinion as  
10 to the veracity of the allegations set forth in Paragraph 26 and therefore denies the same.

11 27. Rimini Street is without sufficient information or knowledge to form an opinion as  
12 to the veracity of the allegations set forth in Paragraph 27 and therefore denies the same.

13 28. Rimini Street is without sufficient information or knowledge to form an opinion as  
14 to the veracity of the allegations set forth in Paragraph 28 and therefore denies the same.

15 29. Rimini Street is without sufficient information or knowledge to form an opinion as  
16 to the veracity of the allegations set forth in Paragraph 29 and therefore denies the same.

17 30. Rimini Street is without sufficient information or knowledge to form an opinion as  
18 to the veracity of the allegations set forth in Paragraph 30 and therefore denies the same.

19 31. Rimini Street is without sufficient information or knowledge to form an opinion as  
20 to the veracity of the allegations set forth in Paragraph 31 and therefore denies the same.

21 32. Rimini Street is without sufficient information or knowledge to form an opinion as  
22 to the veracity of the allegations set forth in Paragraph 32 and therefore denies the same.

23 33. Rimini Street admits revenue may be derived from the three activities identified by  
24 Paragraph 33.

1 34. Rimini Street admits the allegations of Paragraph 34.

2 35. Rimini Street admits that it competes with Oracle by “providing low-cost  
3 maintenance and support services to PeopleSoft, JDE and Siebel customers running assorted  
4 versions of these software programs,” that it “can cut customer maintenance and support bills in half  
5 and give customers a reprieve from software upgrade cycles,” that “customers can remain on older  
6 versions of PeopleSoft, JDE or Siebel software rather than moving to later versions,” and that  
7 “Rimini Street can provide fixes and updates and support older software for 10 years past its general  
8 availability.” Rimini Street denies the remaining allegations against it in Paragraph 35.

9 36. Rimini Street admits to offering “customization fixes,” “tax and regulatory updates,  
10 applications and repository fixes,” and “24/7 Support with Guaranteed 30 Minutes or less  
11 Response.” Rimini Street admits to offering comprehensive support at “More Than 50% Annual  
12 Savings.” Rimini Street denies the remaining allegations against it in Paragraph 36.

13 37. Rimini Street denies the allegations against it in Paragraph 37.

14 38. Rimini Street denies the allegations against it in Paragraph 38.

15 39. Rimini Street is without sufficient information or knowledge to form an opinion as  
16 to the veracity of the allegations set forth in Paragraph 39 and therefore denies the same.

17 40. Rimini Street is without sufficient information or knowledge to form an opinion as  
18 to the veracity of the remaining allegations set forth in Paragraph 40 and therefore denies the same.

19 41. Rimini Street is without sufficient information or knowledge to form an opinion as  
20 to the veracity of the allegations set forth in Paragraph 41 and therefore denies the same.

21 42. Rimini Street denies the allegations against it in the first sentence of Paragraph 42.  
22 Rimini Street is without sufficient information or knowledge to form an opinion as to the veracity of  
23 the remaining allegations set forth in Paragraph 42 and therefore denies the same.

1           43. Rimini Street denies the allegations against it in the first, third and fourth sentences  
2 of Paragraph 43. Rimini Street is without sufficient information or knowledge to form an opinion as  
3 to the veracity of the remaining allegations set forth in Paragraph 43 and therefore denies the same.

4           44. Rimini Street denies the allegations against it in Paragraph 44.

5           45. Rimini Street denies the allegations against it in Paragraph 45.

6           46. Rimini Street denies that it has engaged in large-scale downloading that has  
7 damaged Plaintiffs' servers. Rimini Street also denies that it "admitted that it has engaged in large-  
8 scale downloading that has damaged Oracle's servers." Rimini Street is without sufficient  
9 information or knowledge to form an opinion as to the veracity of the remaining allegations set forth  
10 in Paragraph 46 and therefore denies the same.

11           47. Rimini Street admits that Paragraph 47 contains partial quotations Plaintiffs claim  
12 are attributed to Rimini Street's lawyers, however the date, source, and context of the quotations are  
13 not identified, therefore Rimini Street denies the allegations of Paragraph 47. Rimini Street denies  
14 the remaining allegations against it in Paragraph 47.

15           48. Rimini Street denies the allegations against it in Paragraph 48.

16           49. Rimini Street admits that, of its ten-member management team, seven list prior  
17 employment experience with PeopleSoft, Siebel, or Oracle. Rimini Street denies the remaining  
18 allegations against it in Paragraph 49.

19           50. Rimini Street denies the allegations against it in Paragraph 50.

20           51. Rimini Street denies the allegations against it in Paragraph 51.

21           52. Rimini Street admits that Plaintiffs claim numerous works that are protected under  
22 the Federal Copyright Act, 17 U.S.C. §§ 101 *et seq.* Rimini Street denies the remaining allegations  
23 against it in Paragraph 52.

24           53. Rimini Street denies the allegations against it in Paragraph 53

1 54. Rimini Street denies the allegations against it in Paragraph 54.

2 55. Rimini Street denies the allegations against it in Paragraph 55.

3 56. Rimini Street denies the allegations against it in Paragraph 56.

4 57. Rimini Street denies the allegations against it in Paragraph 57.

5 58. Rimini Street denies the allegations against it in Paragraph 58.

6 59. Rimini Street denies the allegations against it in Paragraph 59.

7 60. Rimini Street denies the allegations against it in Paragraph 60.

8 **Oracle's First Claim for Relief**

9 **Copyright Infringement**

10 61. Rimini Street repeats, realleges, and incorporates by reference its responses to the  
11 preceding paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.

12 62. Rimini Street is without sufficient information or knowledge to form an opinion as to  
13 the veracity of the remaining allegations set forth in Paragraph 62 and therefore denies the same.

14 63. Rimini Street is without sufficient information or knowledge to form an opinion as to  
15 the veracity of the remaining allegations set forth in Paragraph 63 and therefore denies the same.

16 64. Rimini Street denies having infringed copyrights in Plaintiffs' software and support  
17 material. Rimini Street is without sufficient information or knowledge to form an opinion as to the  
18 veracity of the remaining allegations set forth in Paragraph 64 and therefore denies the same.

19 65. Rimini Street denies the allegations against it in Paragraph 65.

20 66. Rimini Street denies it has copied any of the listed items without a license. Rimini  
21 Street is without sufficient information or knowledge to form an opinion as to the veracity of the  
22 remaining allegations set forth in Paragraph 66 and therefore denies the same.

23 67. Rimini Street denies the allegations against it in Paragraph 67.

24 68. Rimini Street denies the allegations against it in Paragraph 68.

1 69. Rimini Street denies the allegations against it in Paragraph 69.

2 70. Rimini Street denies the allegations against it in Paragraph 70.

3 71. Rimini Street denies the allegations against it in Paragraph 71.

4 72. Rimini Street denies the allegations against it in Paragraph 72.

5 73. Rimini Street denies the allegations against it in Paragraph 73.

6 **Oracle's Second Through Thirteenth Claims for Relief**

7 As set forth in Rimini Street's Motion to Dismiss, Oracle's remaining claims for  
 8 relief have not been adequately plead, and these claims should be dismissed. Given Oracle's failure  
 9 to properly plead its Second through Thirteenth Claims for Relief, Rimini Street cannot answer  
 10 Oracle's allegations at this time. Rimini Street reserves the right to respond further to Oracle's  
 11 Second through Thirteenth Claims for Relief once the issues raised in Rimini Street's Motion to  
 12 Dismiss are resolved, to extent any claims remain.

13 14 **Prayer for Relief**

15 Rimini Street denies that Plaintiff is entitled to any relief in connection with the  
 16 allegations of Plaintiffs' Complaint, including, without limitations, the allegations of Paragraphs A.  
 17 through G of Plaintiffs' Prayer for Relief.

18 To the extent that any allegation contained in Plaintiffs' Complaint has not been  
 19 specifically admitted herein, it is hereby denied. Rimini Street further denies any allegations that  
 20 may be implied by or inferred from the headings of Plaintiffs' Complaint.

21 22 **Affirmative Defenses**

23 24 **First Affirmative Defense**

25 1. One or more of the copyrights that are allegedly infringed by Rimini Street are invalid  
 26 for failure to comply with the requirements for copyrightable subject matter set forth in 17 U.S.C. §  
 27 102, including that no copyright protection is afforded to "any idea, procedure, process, system,  
 28

1 method of operation, concept, principle, or discovery, regardless of the form in which it is described,  
 2 explained, illustrated, or embodied.”

3 **Second Affirmative Defense**

4 2. Rimini Street’s use of Plaintiffs’ copyrighted material, if any, is authorized under  
 5 terms of license agreements held by Rimini Street and/or Rimini Street’s licensed customers for  
 6 whom Rimini Street acts as an agent.

7 **Third Affirmative Defense**

8 3. Plaintiffs consented to Rimini Street’s use, if any, of Plaintiffs’ copyrighted material.  
 9 Oracle consented to Rimini Street’s use of its copyrighted material by issuing Rimini Street, as a  
 10 designated “Oracle Technical Support Contact,” log-on credentials that enable access to support  
 11 materials through Oracle’s customer support web pages, and by providing copyrighted material  
 12 directly to Rimini Street on numerous occasions, as an authorized agent of Oracle’s licensees  
 13

14 **Fourth Affirmative Defense**

15 4. Plaintiffs’ claims for copyright infringement are barred by the doctrine of copyright  
 16 misuse. As explained by Rimini Street’s Second Counterclaims, Oracle has attempted to use the  
 17 design of its support website and terms of its license agreements and its “browser-wrap” or “click-  
 18 wrap” agreements to forestall competition and to significantly interfere with and/or to preclude a  
 19 customer’s ability to select a support vendor other than Oracle. This attempt to influence  
 20 competition in an area beyond the scope of Oracle’s copyrights constitutes copyrights misuse.

21 **Fifth Affirmative Defense**

22 5. One or more of Plaintiffs’ claims for statutory damages and attorneys’ fees under 17  
 23 U.S.C. § 504 are barred because some, if not all, of Plaintiffs’ copyright registrations were not made  
 24 within three months after the first publication of the allegedly infringing works, as required by 17  
 25 U.S.C. § 412.

## Sixth Affirmative Defense

6. Plaintiffs' claims for copyright infringement are barred by implied license. Oracle's conduct, as well as the custom and practice of the community, gives rise to an implied license. For example, Oracle granted Rimini Street access to the support materials, and Oracle itself directly mailed Rimini Street copies of the software, as an authorized agent of Oracle's licensees. These exemplary actions in conjunction with the well-known and accepted practices of the software industry provide Rimini Street an implied license to access and use Oracle's copyrighted content.

### Seventh Affirmative Defense

7. Plaintiffs' claims for copyright infringement are barred by the doctrines of merger and Scènes-à-faire. Given the limited number of ways that updates, fixes and other alleged derivative works can be expressed, Plaintiffs' claims for copyright infringement are barred for one or more works and/or derivative works allegedly infringed by Rimini Street.

## **Eighth Affirmative Defense**

8. Plaintiffs' claims are barred in whole or in part by the applicable statutes of limitations. One or more of the alleged acts of infringe occurred prior to the Copyright Act's three year statute of limitations.

### **Ninth Affirmative Defense**

9. Plaintiffs' claims for copyright infringement are barred by the doctrines of laches, waiver and estoppel. Since the inception of Rimini Street in September 2005, Plaintiffs and their predecessors have made allegations and threats against Rimini Street with regard to Rimini Street's provision of after-market support services for Oracle products in numerous direct correspondence to Rimini Street, in media interviews, in industry analyst discussions, and in discussions with prospective Rimini Street clients. Oracle even threatened litigation in some correspondence with Rimini Street and in its discussions with prospective Rimini Street clients. As set forth, *supra*, in the

1 Factual Background and with respect to Rimini Street's Counterclaim for business disparagement  
 2 and trade libel, Plaintiffs have been made well-aware of the business practices and procedures  
 3 employed by Rimini Street. Plaintiffs are also well-aware of the longstanding and accepted industry  
 4 practices and norms of other third party consulting vendors.

5 **Tenth Affirmative Defense**

6 10. Any reproduction, display, derivation, publication or distribution of any valid  
 7 copyright of the Plaintiffs by Rimini Street is a fair use protected by the provisions of 17 U.S.C. §  
 8 107.  
 9

10 **Eleventh Affirmative Defense**

11 11. Any copy, adaptation, lease, sale, or transfer of any work copyrighted by the  
 12 Plaintiffs is protected by the provisions of 17 U.S.C. § 117.

13 Rimini Street reserves the right to assert additional defenses as they become known  
 14 through further investigation and discovery. In addition, Rimini Street reserves the right to assert  
 15 additional affirmative defenses to the claims inadequately alleged in Oracle's second through  
 16 thirteenth claims for relief to the extent necessary after resolution of Rimini Street's motion to  
 17 dismiss.  
 18

19 WHEREFORE, Rimini Street request that Plaintiffs' Complaint be dismissed in its  
 20 entirety, with prejudice; that judgment be entered against Plaintiffs in connection with its Complaint;  
 21 that judgment be entered in favor of Rimini Street; that the Court declare this case to be exceptional;  
 22 that Rimini Street be awarded its costs and reasonable attorneys' fees incurred in connection with the  
 23 defense of this action; and that Rimini Street be awarded such other and further relief as the Court  
 24 deems appropriate.  
 25  
 26  
 27  
 28

**Demand for Jury Trial**

Pursuant to Rule 38(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Rimini Street hereby demands a jury trial on all issues so triable.

DATED: March \_\_, 2010

# GREENBERG TRAURIG

By: /s/: Leslie S. Godfrey  
Mark G. Tratos, Esq. (Nevada Bar No. 1086)  
Brandon Roos, Esq. (Nevada Bar No. 7888)  
Leslie Godfrey, Esq. (Nevada Bar No. 10229)  
3773 Howard Hughes Parkway  
Suite 400 North  
Las Vegas, NV 89169  
Attorney for Defendants  
Rimni Street, Inc. and Seth Ravin

## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on the \_\_\_th day of March, 2010, I electronically filed the foregoing document with the clerk of the court for the U.S. District Court, District of Nevada, using the electronic case filing system. The electronic case filing system sent a “Notice of Electronic Filing” to the attorneys of record who have consented in writing to accept this Notice as service of this document by electronic means.

By: /s/: Leslie S. Godfrey  
Leslie Godfrey, Esq.  
Attorney for Defendants  
Rimini Street, Inc. and Seth Ravin